(b) if so, the amount of increase in terms of dollar in the last one year;

(c) the names of products that were exported; and

(d) whether Government have been able to meet the phytosanitary standards of developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) Export of agricultural commodities (excluding cotton) during 1991-92 was US $ 1882 million, and that during 1992-93 has been provisionally estimated at US $ 1950 million. For 1993-94, a target of US $ 2255 million has been fixed. The major items being exported are deoiled cakes, cashew, tobacco, spices, rice, fruits and vegetables, processed foods, sugar, etc.

(d) Government has repeatedly been emphasising to the exporting community, the need for exporting goods of internationally accepted quality and Indian agricultural commodities are very well accepted internationally.

Variation in the Price of Indian and Indonesian Coal Available in Bangladesh.

300. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Meghalaya Coal at Bangladesh within its border is available at $ 40 per ton whereas the Indonesian coal is available at $ 48 a ton;

(b) whether it is a fact that the calorific value of Meghalaya coal is superior to that of Indonesia's;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 39 cu ft for a ton is the volume measurement in Meghalaya whereas it is only 35 cu ft to a ton in Bangladesh thus giving the Bangladesh traders the advantage of 4 cu ft, for a ton; and

(d) if so, whether what steps Government propose to take so that this trade is not too much in disfavour of the Meghalaya exporters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) There are no restrictions on export of Meghalaya Coal w.e.f. 1-4-1993. No reliable information is available regarding the prices at which imported coal from various sources is available in Bangladesh. Since coal produced in Meghalaya mines has not been graded, details regarding calorific value and density of coal produced in Meghalaya are not avalable.

Dunkel Draft on Textiles

301. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the write-up in the Times of India of 1st September, 1993 regarding India's submitting 5-point amendment to the Dunkel Draft on Textiles; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In the negotations that took place in November—December, 1992 India had made proposals on the textiles agreement of the Dunkel draft. In view of the importance that India attaches to this matter these proposals were also brought to the attention of the Director General of GATT recently.

2. The proposals for amendments in the Agreement on Textiles are as below:

(i) Annex may be split into two parts—Part A and Part B Part A would comprise of those products which are MFA items as defined in Article 12 of the MFA. Part B would comprise of non-MFA products.

(ii) Products in Part A only would be relevant for in Integration

under Article 2 of the Agreement on Textiles & Clothing. However, products in both Parts A & B would be relevant for safeguard action under Article 6 of the Agreement.

(iii) Consequential changes to reflect these modifications in the Annex would have to be made in the relevant Articles of Draft Agreement.

(iv) Raise the integration factors from the current figures of 16%, 17%, & 18% in the three stages which would help in making the integration process more uniformly spread.

(v) Raise substantially the growth factors for the quotas.

Import of Rags

302. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import woollen rags/ synthetic rags shoddy wool in a completely mutilated form;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the quantity of rags to be imported; and

(d) the names of the firms authorised to import woollen rags etc?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Import of Woollen rage synthetic rags/ shoddy wool was permitted under OGL in the previous policies The rags continue to be freely importable under the current Exim policy subject to the conditions that mutilation must conform to the requirements as specified by Customs authorities so as to prevent misuse of this import facility. Since the import is freely permitted by all persons without any specific authorisation, the likely quantum of imports in the near future cannot be estimated.

Multinational Company in Coffee Export Auction

303. DR. BAPU KALDATE: SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted a multinational company to participate in the coffee export auction;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating;

(i) whether it is against the rules of the Coffee Board;

(ii) if so, the reason for overlooking the rules; and

(c) what are the implications involved with the entry of multinational company in the coffee export auction bids in so far as the domestic exporters are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government had directed the Coffee Board to allow M/s. Nestle India Limited to participate in the export auction. The company was not allowed to participate in the export auction by the Coffee Board as they had allegedly shipped certain quantity of Coffee bought from the exoprt auction with the prescribed time limit. The intention of the Government was that while the company may be allowed to participate in the export auction, necessary action for not shipping coffee within the prescribed time limit or verification of stock obtained from export auction, may be taken against them separately. The reason for allowing the firm to participate in the export auction was that they are one of the exporters of value added coffee and their non-participation in the export auction was that they are one of the exporters of value added coffee and their non-participation in the export auction and subsequent disruption in export would have affected India's export earnings. Since this company and other multi-nationals are in the export market for the last many years, their entry in the export auction is not likely to adversely affect the domestic exporters.